

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 418

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Eddie Jones of University Place, Washington.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Eddie “J.J.” Jones; and

WHEREAS, J.J. Jones was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones served with acumen and alacrity as the Vice President of the Pacific Rim Development Group and as the founder and Vice President of the Pacific North West Black Chamber of Commerce, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, J.J. Jones’s success in the business world was forged from his unswerving dedication to excellence and his unshakeable perseverance, qualities which also enabled him to find success in the sporting arena; and

WHEREAS, a standout quarterback at Southside High School in Memphis, his hometown, and at Fisk University in Nashville, Mr. Jones became one of the first African-American quarterbacks to play in the National Football League when he was signed as a free agent by the New York Jets in 1974; and

WHEREAS, for three seasons, J.J. Jones played as a back-up quarterback to Joe Willie Namath, earning recognition as the only quarterback to bench a healthy Namath, and his strong knowledge of professional defenses was of invaluable benefit to the coaching staff; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Southside High, Mr. Jones matriculated to Fisk University, where he joined the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and from which he earned a bachelor's degree in political science; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, J.J. Jones was appointed by President Gerald Ford to the United States Department of Commerce's Office of Minority Business Enterprise, and he was also a valued member of the National Association of Financial Consultants and the National Association of Public Administrators; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his parents, Louella T. Jones and Clinton "Casey" Jones, and his sister, Betty J. Jones, J.J. Jones will be sorely missed by his children, Kyna Jones, Johnathan Paul Jones, and Jamen Jones; his grandchildren, Dallis Jones, Ariel Jones, and Camryn Jones; his siblings, Mildred Cook, Samantha Payne, Shiferaw Payne, Mary Payne, Phyllis Johnson, and Charles E. Jones; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and friends and

WHEREAS, J.J. Jones leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of John Eddie Jones, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Jones.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.